



**COUNTY OF PLACER
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION**

CHRISTINE E. TURNER
Agricultural Commissioner
Sealer of Weights & Measures

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MEMBERS

Tony Aguilar	Larry Jordan
Patricia Beard	William Morebeck
James Brenner	Vicky Morris
Paul Ferrari	John Nitta
Wayne Vineyard	

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MINUTES

PLACER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MEETING

March 10, 2008

Members Present: Tony Aguilar, Jim Brenner, Paul Ferrari, William Morebeck, Larry Jordan, Vicky Morris, John Nitta, Wayne Vineyard

Members Absent: Patti Beard

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- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Meeting called to order at 7:00 by Chairman Wayne Vineyard.
 - II. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR MARCH 10, 2008 AND MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 11, 2008**
Motion to approve:
Aguilar/Morris/MPUV
 - III. **PUBLIC COMMENT (The Commission does not act on items under Public Comment).**
None
 - IV. **FARMWORKER HOUSING PRESENTATION** – Jennifer Dzakowic, Planning Department
This was an informational item regarding updating the Housing Element of the Placer County General Plan to include agricultural employee housing provisions.
 - V. **PROPOSED BOUNDARY LINE ADJUSTMENT BETWEEN AGRICULTURAL PRESERVE 511 AND AGRICULTURAL PRESERVE 512 – PAGP 20080018** – Alex Fisch, Planning Department
This was a request by the applicants to amend the boundaries between Agricultural Preserve 511 and 512. The boundary line adjustment would transfer 20 acres of land from AGP 512 to AGP 511, increasing AGP 511 from 70 acres to 90 acres, and decreasing AGP 512 from 192 acres to 172 acres.
Motion to approve:
Aguilar/Ferrari/MPUV

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Agricultural Marketing Program Activities – Nancyjo Riekse**
- Six-month project report to Commission members
 - Reported on Ag Marketing activities for month of February
- B. Economic Development Board (EDB) Update – Lyndell Grey - No report**
- C. Livestock and Natural Resources Farm Advisor – Roger Ingram**
- Meeting on March 18th at U.C.C. and March 20th at Grass Valley regarding statewide survey on the need for more USDA meat processing.
 - Business Planning course discussed need for increasing sales and increasing turn over. There will be a Meat Buyers Club organizational meeting on March 24th. The Club will consist of a group of people who want to buy a large supply of meat and have a central delivery point. Will help marketing and distribution costs.
 - Niche meat marketing conference on March 26th at the Modesto Conference Center.
 - Poultry Processor: Tentative delivery June 1, 2008
- D. Horticultural and Small Farms Advisor – Cindy Fake**
- Has a good group for the Farm Business Planning class
 - Resource Fair – 26 organizations that serve agriculture participated and provided producers lots of good information
 - Handed out the Ag Futures Project brochure
 - Subwatershed testing showed exceedances of copper. Not sure of the origin yet.
- E. Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) Agendas/Minutes – Patti Beard - No report**
- F. Placer Parkway Meeting Update – William Morebeck - No report**
- G. Agricultural Water Supply Subcommittee/Ag Water Waivers – Christine E. Turner**
- Received Notice of Availability of proposed modifications to Irrigated Ag Lands Waiver program dated March 7, 2008 from the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). Deadline for joining a Coalition resulted in a 30% increase in grower participation in coalitions resulting in 5,000 more growers and an additional 1 million acres being included in the program. RWQCB staff is proposing modifying conditions for those that have not joined a coalition so that they have a set of parameters for joining and that if they do not join they will be regulated as individuals. Coalitions are working to provide scientific data on watersheds and working with local coalition members when exceedances are detected to try and figure out where it is

coming from, as well as implementing Best Management Practices (BMPs).
RWQCB has recognized Coalition groups are working and are effective.

VII. AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER'S REPORT – Christine E. Turner, Agricultural Commissioner

- Reminder of Conflict of Interest Statements due to Tonya by 3-14-08.
- Rice pesticide permit conditions are out from the CA Department of Pesticide Regulation.
- Closure of USDA Farm Services Agency (FSA) on March 1, 2008. Farmers will have to go to the FSA office in Yuba City or Elk Grove to deal with their farm services business.
- Wrote letter to Ron Nelson, General Manager, Nevada Irrigation District (NID) expressing concern about the agricultural water rate increase and what it would mean to farmers and ranchers. Mr. Nelson responded that NID is committed to farmers and they will be addressing the next year's rate increases in about 6 months. The first year rate increase is the only one set right now. All agricultural water users should write a letter to NID if they are concerned about the impacts of increased water rates.
- Wrote a letter to Planning Department providing comments on the Foresthill Divide Community Plan regarding forests as an agricultural product and not being given same considerations as agricultural land in the valley floor consistent with the General Plan.
- Mandatory Ethics training April 4th.
- USDA Value Added Producer Grant applications due March 31, 2008. Contact Kay Joy-Barge at High Sierra RC&D

VIII. NEW BUSINESS AND GENERAL COMMISSION COMMENTS

Alice Ferrari – Read an article about medications being found in water supply and could be potential cause of health related problems.

Wayne Vineyard – Customer Appreciation Day at Placer Farm Supply March 15, 2008.

XI. ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business to come before the Agricultural Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 8:12. The next regular meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 14, 2008 at the Planning Commission Hearing Room in Auburn.

Recording Secretary
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